

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 02109 142010Z

15

ACTION IO-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7912

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UNSC, CY, GR

SUBJECT: FURTHER PRESS REACTION TO UNSC RESOLUTION ON
CYPRUS

1. SUMMARY: ATHENS NEWSPAPERS MARCH 14 LOWERED PRIORITY
OF SC RESOLUTION COVERAGE AND COMMENTARY VIEWED PROSPECTS
FOR FUTURE PROGRESS IN INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS WITH GREATER
SKEPTICISM. GOG SPOKESMAN IN OFF-THE-RECORD BACKGROUNDER
REFERRED TO RESOLUTION AS AN EFFORT WHICH DOES NOT INSPIRE
MUCH HOPE. ANDREAS PAPANDREOU REPEATED HIS CHARGES THAT
NATO AND PENTAGON ARE PROMOTING PARTITION OF ISLAND, AND
CALLED AGAIN FOR INTERNATIONALIZATION OF CYPRUS ISSUE.
END SUMMARY.

2. PRESS TODAY GAVE REPORTS ON CYPRUS DEVELOPMENTS
LESS PROMINENCE THAN YESTERDAY, BUILDING STORIES AROUND
PRESS BACKGROUNDER OF UNDERSECRETARY LAMBRIAS AND
CONTINUING CHARGES RE TURKISH INTRANSIGENCE. AT SAME
TIME, KATHIMERINI EDITORIALIZED THAT SITUATION SUFFICIENTLY
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PAGE 02 ATHENS 02109 142010Z

FLUID AND UNCLEAR THAT PEOPLE SHOULD NOT JUMP TO PREMATURE

CONCLUSIONS UNTIL SOMETHING DEFINITE EMERGES. MEANWHILE, THEY SHOULD FEEL REASSURED BY CLOSE GREEK-CYPRIOI COOPERATION AND COORDINATION IN DEALING WITH THE ISSUE. TO VIMA, IN INTERPRETATIVE COLUMN, REPORTED THAT SECRETARY MADE TWO PRINCIPAL POINTS TO TURKS: U.S. WILL NOT ACCEPT ADDITIONAL TURKISH FAITS ACCOMPLIS AND SINCE GREECE ENJOYS STRONG, STABLE GOVERNMENT NOW IS BEST TIME TO ENGAGE IN SERIOUS DISCUSSIONS SO THAT OPPORTUNITY IS NOT LOST. AKROPOLIS LAMENTED THAT TURKS WILL PUT THEIR OWN INTERPRETATION ON SC RESOLUTION AND SECRETARY SHOULD NOT ASSUME HE HAS ACCOMPLISHED MUCH SINCE CRUCIAL MATTERS ARE STILL UNRESOLVED.

3. NEWS ACCOUNTS REFERRED (WITHOUT DIRECT ATTRIBUTION) TO UNDER SECRETARY FOR PRESS AND INFORMATION LAMBRIAS BACKGROUND BRIEFING EVENING BEFORE WHEN HE CHARACTERIZED RESOLUTION AS EFFORT WHICH DOES NOT BREED MUCH HOPE BUT CONSTITUTED AN ATTEMPT TO FIND WAY OUT OF PRESENT IMPASSE. HIS REMARKS, WHICH NEWSPAPERS ATTRIBUTED TO AUTHORITATIVE CIRCLES IN ATHENS, TOOK PESSIMISTIC TONE THAT GREEK SIDE DOES NOT BELIEVE IT IS POSSIBLE TO FIND SETTLEMENT BY CONTINUING TALKS IN VIEW OF DIFFICULTIES CREATED BY DE FACTO SITUATION. SAME "CIRCLES" CONCLUDED THAT PROBABLE RESUMPTION OF TALKS WOULD BE USED AS AN EXCUSE FOR RESTORATION OF U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY.

4. KATHIMERINI CONCLUDED ITS NEWS COVERAGE WITH REMARK THAT NY TIMES REPORT DATELINED JERUSALEM HAD PROVOKED STIR IN ATHENS DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES. KATHIMERINI QUOTED TIMES STORY TO EFFECT THAT "U.S. OFFICIALS DID NOT, RPT NOT, DENY SPECULATION THAT ONE OF THE MAIN FACTORS IN THE WILLINGNESS OF THE TWO SIDES TO ENGAGE IN DISCUSSIONS WAS GREEK READINESS NOW TO DISCUSS A POLITICAL DIVISION OF CYPRUS." THIS SOLUTION, ACCORDING TO KATHIMERINI'S RENDITION OF TIMES, WAS FAVORED BY THE TURKS BUT NOT AGREED TO BY GREEKS AND GREEK CYPRIOTS.

5. ANDREAS PAPANDREOU (PASOK), AFTER MEETING WITH VISITING DELEGATION OF COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY, ISSUED STATEMENT THAT HE FEARED DELEGATION'S VISIT CONSTITUTED PART OF A "COORDINATED EFFORT BY NATO AND PENTAGON TO PROMOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 ATHENS 02109 142010Z

PLANS FOR THE PARTITION OF THE ISLAND UNDER...BIZONAL CONFEDERATION." PAPANDREOU ADDED THAT GOG SHOULD "TURN DECISIVELY TOWARD INTERNATIONALIZATION OF CYPRUS ISSUE AND DECLARE THAT IT WILL NEVER AGREE TO ISLAND'S PARTITION..."
KUBISCH

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